



U.S. Coast Guard History Program

Arbutus, 1871

ex-Jonas Smith; ex-Aaron Wilbur; ex-USS Daffodil

Any of 20 species of evergreen shrubs or trees of the heath family found in southern Europe and western North America.

Builder: B. C. Terry, Keyport, New Jersey

Commissioned: 1862 (commercial); 1862 (USN); 1871 (LHS)

Decommissioned: 1874

Length: 125'

Beam: 22' 6"

Draft: 7' 3"

Propulsion: Single beam steam engine; single boiler; side paddle wheels

Complement:

Armament: None (LHS)

History:

Arbutus was launched in 1862 as the freighter *Jonas Smith*. She was purchased by the Navy for service during the Civil War and was commissioned in 1862 as *USS Daffodil*.

She was sold and returned to commercial work as the SS *Aaron Wilbur* but was purchased by the Lighthouse Service in 1871. She was commissioned as the LHT *Arbutus* and served as an engineering tender in the 7th Lighthouse District. She was declared unfit in 1874 and was sold in 1875.

Sources:

Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, Vol. I, Part A, p. 346.

Douglas Peterson, *U.S. Lighthouse Service Tenders, 1840-1939* (Annapolis: Eastwind Publishing, 2000), p. 46.

